

Message Text

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12

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEA-10 EB-07 MC-02 ACDA-05 AID-05 OMB-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /087 W

----- 032046

R 161435Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2795

USCINCSO QUARRRY HTS CZ

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEGUCIGALPA 1407

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, HO

SUBJECT: GOH PURCHASE OF ISRAELI MILITARY EQUIPMENT

REF: (A) TEGUCIGALPA 0517 (DTG 302055Z JAN 76); (B) DAO
IR NO. 6 841 0019 76 (DTG 122000Z MAR 76)

1. REFTEL A STATED EMBASSY'S CONCERN ABOUT REPORTED SALE OF SUPER MYSTERE FIGHTER-BOMBERS AND OTHER AIRCRAFT TO HONDURAS. REFTEL B REPORTED THAT ISRAELI SALE MAY INVOLVE A PAYMENT OF \$15 MILLION AND SPECULATED THAT MAGNITUDE OF AMOUNT SUGGESTED THAT MORE PLANES OR MILITARY EQUIPMENT INVOLVED THAN FIRST THOUGHT.

2. ON MARCH 12, 1976, MILGP HONDURAS WAS ADVISED BY HONDURAN OFFICERS THAT THE FOLLOWING COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT HAD BEEN PURCHASED IN UNKNOWN QUANTITIES FROM TADIRAN, A COMMUNICATION FIRM LOCATED IN TEL AVIV. IT INCLUDES AN/PRC-77 RADIOS, VRC-65T RADIO SYSTEMS, PRC-66OT RADIOS, TA-312PT FIELD TELEPHONES, SB-42 SWITCHBOARD, SB-22/PT SWITCHBOARD, TNC-77 NICKEL CADMIUM RECHARGEABLE BATTERIES, BCT-772S BATTERY CHARGER AND LT-10 LINE TESTER. EQUIPMENT IS APPARENTLY MANUFACTURED IN ISRAEL ACCORDING TO U.S. MILITARY SPECIFICATIONS. TERMS OF PURCHASE ARE NOT
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KNOWN. GOH DESIRES THAT US MILITARY TRAINING TEAM TRAIN

HONDURAN MILITARY PERSONNEL TO USE THIS EQUIPMENT. DELIVERY OF EQUIPMENT BELIEVED TO BE IMMINENT BUT EXACT DATE NOT KNOWN.

3. INDICATIONS ARE THAT ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT FOR GROUND COMBAT FORCES WILL BE INCLUDED IN TOTAL PURCHASE FROM ISRAEL. QUANTITIES AND TYPES OF ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT ARE NOT KNOWN, BUT CREW SERVED WEAPONS ARE A PROBABLE PART OF THE PACKAGE.

4. AS STATED IN REFTTEL A, THE EMBASSY IS CONCERNED OVER EFFORTS OF THIRD COUNTRIES, MOST NOTABLY ISRAEL, TO EXPLOIT THE HONDURAS/EL SALVADOR DISPUTE TO PROMOTE THE SALE OF ARMAMENTS. IN ADDITION, THE FINANCIAL BURDEN FOR HONDURAS INVOLVED IN ARMS PURCHASES ASSUMES SERIOUS PROPORTIONS IN VIEW OF ITS LIMITED RESOURCES.

5. THE EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIPT OF ALL AVAILABLE INFORMATION AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV HAS IN REGARD TO POSSIBLE ARMS SALES TO HONDURAS.

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